Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 7-10 and 14 have been amended. Claims 5-14 remain pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indicated allowability of claims 7-11 and 14. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claims 7, 9 and 14 into independent form. Hence, these claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant has amended claims 8 and 10 and changed their dependency to be from allowable claims 7 and 9, respectively. Hence, these claims are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, independent claims 5 and 12, and dependent claims 6 and 13, were rejected as obvious over SAKAI et al. (US 4,412,413) in view of STAHLECKER (US 6,295,800). In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's independent claim 5 recites an arrangement for producing a spun thread from a staple fiber strand. A drafting unit and an airjet assembly arranged downstream of the drafting unit are provided. The air jet assembly includes a vortex chamber having an air evacuation channel, and at least one cleaning channel having a suction opening operatively arranged with respect to a delivery roller pair of the drafting unit. The cleaning channel is connected to the air evacuation channel with a mouthpiece. In an area of the mouthpiece, a

compressed air opening of an injector channel for increasing a low pressure of the air evacuation channel, when required, is provided.

Similarly, independent claim 19 recites a compressed air opening of an injector channel arranged in an area of the mouthpiece, whereby the compressed air opening increases a low pressure of the air evacuation channel, when required.

As shown in a preferred embodiment of Figure 1, in an area of the mouthpiece 20, a compressed air opening 22 of an injector channel 21 is provided. Compressed air supplied through the compressed air opening increases a low pressure of the air evacuation channel, thus providing greater suction to, for example, momentarily clean surfaces of the delivery rollers such as during an interruption of the spinning process.

In contrast, as noted by the Examiner, SAKAI describes an arrangement for producing a spun thread from a staple fiber strand. However, SAKAI does not disclose or teach an injector channel having a compressed air opening for increasing a low pressure (negative pressure) of the air evacuation channel when required.

Nor are these deficiencies in SAKAI remedied by STAHLECKER ('800). In particular, Applicant initially notes that STAHLECKER is directed toward an open-end spinning apparatus, which is a different field of technology.

Nonetheless, in STAHLECKER's open-end spinning apparatus, a negative pressure is created within a rotor housing 6 and within the rotor 14. Due to this negative pressure, an air stream is sucked into the rotor 14 through a trash removal opening 35. In addition, STAHLECKER '800 discloses that air may be sucked in through a bypass air inlet opening 36 in order to reduce the amount of air sucked in through the trash removal opening 35, if required. Hence, bypass air inlet opening 36 is not a compressed air opening, and STAHLECKER provides no disclosure in that regard.

In the Office Action, it is maintained that it would have been obvious to utilize "such an injector channel, so as to *increase* the air pressure..." (emphasis added). This, however, is certainly not the point of Applicant's invention. Indeed, Applicant provides compressed air through the compressed air opening of the injector channel in order to create a low or negative pressure, when desired, in order to increase the suction of the air evacuation channel. In contrast, STAHLECKER's bypass opening 36 is provided to reduce the amount of air sucked in through the trash removal opening 35. Thus, one skilled in the art could not arrive at Applicant's invention when considering the SAKAI and STAHLECKER references together.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits independent claims 5 and 12, along with dependent claims 6 and 13 are patentable over SAKAI in view of STAHLECKER '800.

Lastly, regarding the objection to the specification, Applicant has amended paragraph 13 to recite "B". Also, Applicant submits replacement drawing sheets for Figures 1 and 2.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010971.57728US).

Respectfully submitted,

August 20, 2007

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